Chapter 33 | Fluffy, Melty, Heavenly Oyako-don

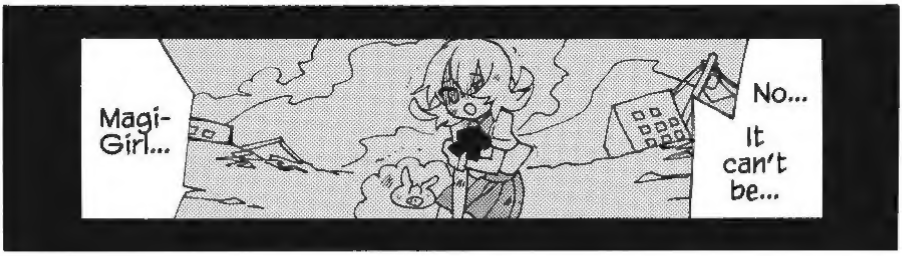
CHIRP CHIRP
FLIP
School Supplies Checklist
Backpack
Slippers
Bag
Slippers Pouch
Red/White Cap
Backpack Cover
Crime Alert Buzzer
Raincoat
Gym Clothes
Lunch mat
YAWN...
Daddy! I'm hungry!
Oh! Sorry, sorry...
BREAKFAST TIME!
Huh.
This is pretty detailed.
I need to learn some more things you can make with eggs.
This is all we've been eating lately.
Okay!
SHING
I'll crack 'em! I'll crack 'em!
SIZZLE
Argh, I better buy more eggs.

GASP
I said runny!
SIZZLE
I should probably just place one big order for anything I can get off the internet.
...so I better hurry up and get the rest of the stuff I'm buying new.
Grandma and Grandpa are getting her the backpack and a desk...
Yeah.
SIZZLE
I'm gonna mix them with rice, so make them runny!

What were you looking at?
The stuff you need for elementary school.
Tsumugi, let's go buy a pencil box and things together!
It's okay. Make 'em soft next time, all right?
Whoopsies...
They ended up hard.

Oh! Magi-Girl is starting!
Huh...
Hmm...
Elementary school...

Chew your food.
Hey!
CHOMP CHOMP


Magi-Girl...
No... It can't be...

Magi-Girl!
Aaah!
Begone, Magi-Girl!
Mwah ha ha...
This is the black hole of hell!
Eternal darkness, where not even the light of hope can reach!
GOOOOOR

KER-FLUTTER

Next time on Magi-Girl...

TAD-DAH-DAHN!

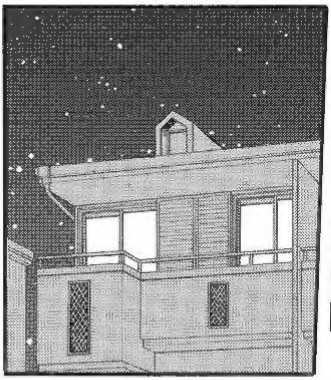
Daddy...
What's a black hole?
Hmm?
Uh...
There's a power called gravity which lets the stars pull things towards them. And a black hole sucks in so much stuff that it even absorbs light, so it's pitch black... I think?
Even...
...light ...?
Yup.
What about Hell?
BA-DUM
ドキ
Um... it's where bad people go.
So I'm sure Magi-Girl will be back next week.
Mmnn ...
The Black Hole of Hell.
OF HELL.

I know what Hell is.
Ah ha ha ha!
Kyaaaa!
Hell is where...
...all the bad people who can't go to Heaven go.
The Kid Who Wouldn't Stop
The Ghost Comes Down the Mountain
Stories of Heaven and Hell
An Edo Ghost
There's a spot with picture books in the back of the bookstore...
...that's got all the scary books, right?
That's where it was.
Book Book
My brothers showed it to me yesterday...
I-Is it that scary?
Mon-sters...
...called oni chase you with spikey iron clubs.
And they hit you and do mean things.
...

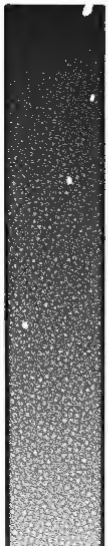
Waaah!
Aaah! I'm scared!
Whoops...
GYAAH!!!
AAAAAHHH!!
WHUMP
?!
Daddy!
Tsu-mugi!
Here I am!
RATTLE
CAFE & BAR
Did something happen?
Heavy!
Kohei, come here for a sec.
SNIFF
What's wrong?
Yikes!

It was about Heaven and Hell...

Huh?
What book?
SOB
She said she wanted to go to the bookstore, so I took her there.
And she was reading this really scary picture book and crying.



Hug me more!
Sure.
It's just a picture book.
It's okay. It's okay.
Awww...
The pictures were so scary!



Please come back to life.
Come on, Magi-Girl.

I'll be right next to you, so you'll be fine.
Okay.
Keep the lights on.
No bath-room either.
U-uh... Okay.

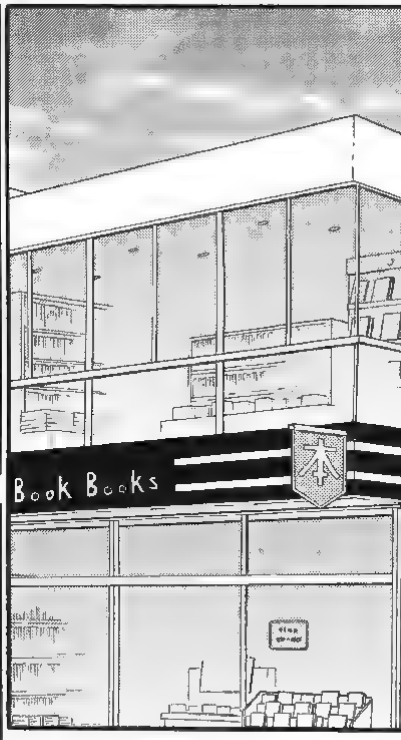
CLENCH CLENCH CLENCH
Please!
Not the black hole!
WHOA
Mm...
Aah—
Tsu-mugi!
You okay?
CLENCH CLENCH CLENCH
Tsu-mugi!
AAAAHH!
SQUEEZE!
Aah!
Did you have a bad dream?
It's okay. It's just a dream.
You're awake now, so you're fine!
SOB SOB
But I'm scared!

Mommy's in Heaven, right?
Why do they go to Heaven or Hell if they die?
Why do people have to die?

Hell's so awful!
Mommy's ...
...a really good person.
So she's in Heaven.
Don't worry.
Hmm... I just kept telling him he was going to Heaven.
I don't know what to tell her...
My kid got all anxious too.
I didn't know Mikio was so delicate.
SIGH...
Maybe we're all are feeling off because graduation is coming, both the parents and the children.
Oh, yeah. That might have something to do with it.

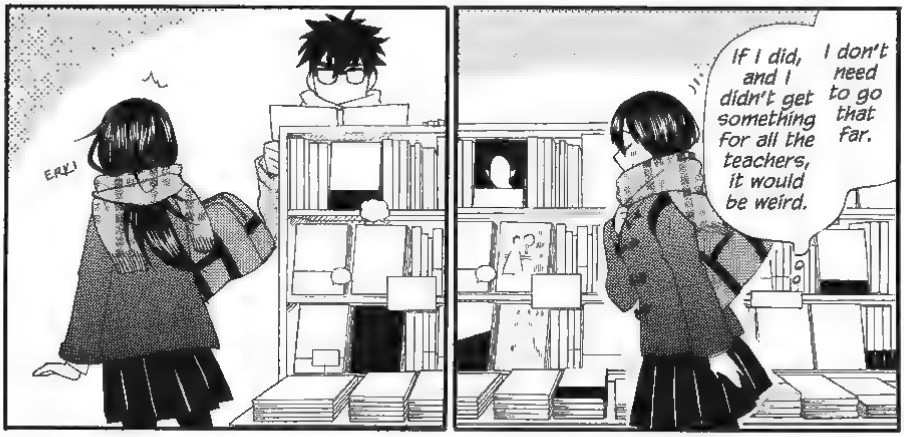
Morning!
Morning!

Hmm...


Book Books

That looks easy to use!
Do you think it's better to get one with molds included?
CHOCO

Chocolate for Your Best Friends
Chocolate to Reward Yourself
The Best Five Department Store Chocolates
Bosses, etc
Chocolate for People Who've Helped You
Choco late, huh?
Sounds great
We can all eat what we make
For Valentine's, let's all give each other chocolates
...some of the chocolate they sell in the department stores.
Once I start working, I'd like to buy...



Book: "Stories of Heaven and Hell With Diagrams"

WELL,
o o o
YOU SEE...
S-sensei?
This thing's really good at traumatizing kids.
Isn't it?
Scary!
Heaven and Hell never really meant a lot to me.
It never bothered me, even as a kid.
About how old were you?
I see...
I was really scared of Hell too.
I was...
...always more scared of space.
It took that long?
MIDDLE...?
Preschool... elementary school, maybe?
Once I got to middle school I kind of stopped caring.

I never...
...talked to Tsumugi about Heaven and Hell.
But I guess...
...she hears things anyway...
I heard that when I'm an old lady, I'll be able to see her again.
When...
...I thought about stuff like that...
...it was usually when I was alone...
...or when it was dark at night and I couldn't sleep.

The opposite...
So if you can do the opposite...
...maybe she won't think about it too much.

Yup.
Keep it bright, or do fun things...
...and make it so she can sleep soundly at night?
Don't let her be alone too much...

I'm willing to do it at any time!
Good food makes you feel better!
Food... maybe we should all meet up and make food!
That's right. First I need to talk to Tsumugi.
Thank you.
I haven't seen this barrier in a while.
ぎゅう
SQUEEZE
ぎゅう
SQUEEZE

I talked to a lot of people today.
Tsumugi,
Okay.
You sit here, Daddy.
Them too?!
Yup.
And Shinobu-san and Kotori-san also said that when they were little, they got scared and cried too.
Mikio-kun's mom was saying he's really scared of Hell too.
What about you, Dad?
Hmmm... they said they aren't scared anymore, and they said we could come play if we wanted to.
Hmm...
Then what did they say?

Your dad...
Tsu-mugi ...
Your dad...
...thinks he should tell you what he really thinks.
...
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
What is it...?
Heaven and Hell...
...are stories people thought up a long time ago...
...and we don't know if they're true.

HUH?!
WHAAAAA-AAAAAAT?!
Some people say they've seen them...
...but we just don't know what happens after you die.
Like... Momo-taro-san.
Prob-ably
Like Momo-taro-san?
...that if you did something bad, you'd be punished no matter what, and if you did good things, you would be happy.
I think they wanted to teach you...
Someone a long, long time ago.
Who came up with that?!
Why? How come there's both a good place and a scary place?!

...
Yup...
After you die?

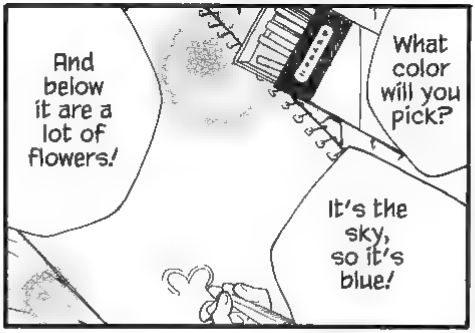
Oh, so it was there?
Kei-chan in art class.
By the way, who told you about Heaven?

When I'm an old lady and die, will I go to Heaven?
I don't wanna go to Hell.
She said Mommy was in Heaven.
But do they really not exist?
You said Mommy was in the sky...
Where is she really?

When you feel your chest tighten up and get a little warm, that's her.
She comes to see you.
She does?!
Hmm... she's usually in the sky...
But if you send letters or talk to our home altar, she comes down here.
...but I do know that Mommy's watching over you.
I don't know if Heaven and Hell are real...
What's the sky like?
Wha...

I think Mommy would be happier...
...if instead of going by what people said a long time ago...
...you and me figured it out for ourselves.

Hmm...


What color will you pick?
And below it are a lot of flowers!
It's the sky, so it's blue!

I'll go get some
I see!
I need ...
...a pen and paper.

And chickens lay eggs so you can eat them whenever you want!
That's great. What should we make with the eggs?
Something we haven't made yet!
Some-thing good!
Daddy wants some veggies, too.

And then a house!
A-a-a house! That's great!
And a cat and a dog!

All toasty...
...like a bed.
...and fluffy...
It's always warm...
Done!
And...
...it's...
If she's coming, I wish I could see her...
Great! It's a wonderful place!
Hee hee hee!

WRAP
WRAP
PUFF
ぽん
PAT
PAT
ぽん
Thanks for letting us come over!

You go over there, Daddy!
HUH?
Wait! I've gotta talk to her!
Tsumu ...
DASH
Kotori-chan!
Welco—
Okay ...
SHOCK

Okay, Tsumugi.
What will we be making today?
Um..
We got meat and eggs and onions...
Tamago-yaki?
Buzz
It's something we've never made before.
HUH?
The right answer is...
...oyako-don*!
Oyako-Don
You mean the one they sell at the store?!
Let's try and make perfect oyako-don...
...with fluffy, melty eggs and plump, juicy chicken!
Yeah
That's right! But we can make it, too!
First we rub some sake on the chicken thighs.
Cook the rice!
Okay!
Then let it sit and warm to room temperature.
Slice up the onions, chicken thigh, and mitsuba leaf...
BUBBLE BUBBLE
...then put dashi stock, soy sauce, mirin, and onions in a pan and cook on medium heat!
Once it starts simmering, put the lid on and cook for three minutes!

*Parent and Child Bowl: Made with chicken, egg, rice, and onions.

Crack 'em...
...and mix 'em up a bit!
Then you take the eggs and—
Crack 'em!
Add the chicken thighs and let it boil for one minute, then put the lid back on and turn off the heat.
Turn the meat before you put the lid on.
That's right.
But don't blend the whites and yolks too much.
Mix...
...like this?
MIX MIX
Once it starts to solidify, mix it up just a little...
...then drizzle in the rest of the egg.
You're great at it!
Just like that.
Pour in a circle.
POUR
Start at the center and go outward.
Then add half the egg after it starts boiling.
STEAM STEAM STEAM
After five minutes, put the pot back on medium high heat.

Rice
Rice
Mix it one more time...
...then sprinkle with the mitsuba leaves.
Turn off the heat and put the lid on for one minute.
Okay!
And the oyako-don...
...is done!
It's all melty and yellow—it looks delicious!
It doesn't take long at all, does it?
It's melty!
LET'S EAT!

MMM
MMM
MMM
FOOF
FOOF
SO GOOD!
Hee hee hee...
I see!
CHEW CHEW
I steamed it a little!
The chicken's so tender, isn't it?

Hey, is the reason they call it oyako-don...
...because the chicken's the parent and the egg's the kid?
That's right!

Then is Kotori-chan...
...the rice?
I-I'm honored...
Rice is delicious...
You're okay with that?!

Listen, Kotori-chan.
She's happy, isn't she?
I guess that's okay, maybe?

*A Japanese blend of seven spices.

To be continued...